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FROM : AmEmbassy, TAIPEI

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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

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OFFICE OF CHINESE AFFAIRS

APR 1 11 1958

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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SUBJECT: General SUN Li-jen.

Transmitted for the Department's information is a copy of a self-explanatory memorandum of a conversation which I had with Foreign Minister YEH on the above-stated subject on April 4, 1958.

Everett F. Drumright
Everett F. Drumright

Enclosure.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY	<i>L. O'Neil</i> DATE <i>4/9/58</i>
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED	
Action Assigned to <i>CA 11</i>	
Action Taken <i>Noted - Memo to Asst. Sec. Robertson</i>	
Date of Action <i>4/12/58</i>	
Action Office Symbol <i>CA 11</i>	
Name of Officer <i>AKR</i>	
Direction to DC/R <i>File</i>	

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Desp. No. 591
From Taipei

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Date: April 4, 1958.

PARTICIPANTS: Foreign Minister George K. C. YEH;
Ambassador Everett F. Drumright.

SUBJECT: General SUN Li-jen.

When I saw Foreign Minister Yeh this morning I said I would like to raise a subject with him on a private and personal basis. I said that I was speaking without any instructions and that my motive was not to promote the welfare of the individual concerned but to assure the best possible climate for Chinese-American relations.

I said that information had reached me that General Sun Li-jen is now in Taipei in a hospital. He is said to be despondent and threatening to commit suicide. I said further that according to information supplied by an American businessman here who has helped Sun Li-jen financially from time to time, Sun is in difficult financial straits. I added that all the foregoing was unconfirmed information so far as I was concerned. I also said that I had never met General Sun Li-jen and had no personal interest in him. I added that some persons had urged me to see him, but I had refused to do so.

I went on to say that General Sun, as Mr. Yeh knew, had many friends in the United States. Some of them had expressed concern over reports, whether true or not, that General Sun was being forcibly detained, living in conditions of poverty, et cetera. I said that these reports had obtained fairly wide currency in the United States through the press. Of course all this brought unfavorable publicity to the Republic of China and perhaps had some adverse effect on Chinese-American relations. It was for this reason that I was raising the matter with the Foreign Minister.

Foreign Minister Yeh said that he was an old and intimate friend of General Sun Li-jen. They had grown up and gone to school together.

He had also helped to arrange for General Sun to settle down in Taichung. The Foreign Minister said that he was unaware that General Sun was in financial straits. He said he would get in touch with General Sun to ascertain whether

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he is ill and indeed financially hard up. He said he scouted this latter possibility, because General Sun is the owner of a large tract of valuable land in the Yangmingshan area. He said he understood that General Sun has been negotiating for the sale of the land for a sum of NT\$700,000, but that he was having difficulty in finding a buyer at that price. The Minister said that he himself was trying to help General Sun dispose of the tract of land.

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